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CSM No. 624

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Copy No. _____
8 December 1958

ORR/CH/D/S

CURRENT SUPPORT MEMORANDUM

NEW SINO-SOVIET BLOC SPONSORED TELEVISION NETWORK

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This report represents the immediate views of the
originating intelligence components of the Office
of Research and Reports. Comments are solicited.

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NEW SINO-SOVIET BLOC SPONSORED TELEVISION NETWORK

A television network called Eurovise* is to be set up by the Sino-Soviet Bloc International Radio and Television Organization (OIR), according to a recent Czech radio-broadcast. This network is to be similar to "Eurovision" the Western European television network and is to interconnect television stations in all of the European Satellites, the USSR, Finland, and several Asian countries. The United Arab Republic reportedly has asked to participate in the network. 1/

The establishment of an intra-bloc integrated telecommunications system has been set forth as an objective of the recently established Organization for Cooperation among the Socialist Countries in the Fields of Post and Communications (OSS). The objective of the integrated telecommunications system includes provisions for a television network linking the European Satellites and the USSR by 1965. 2/

Since 1957, periodic exchanges of live television programs have taken place between East Germany and Czechoslovakia and between Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Program exchanges between Czechoslovakia and the "Eurovision" network have taken place through East Germany. 3/ Interconnection of the "Eurovise" and the "Eurovision" networks will probably take place for special event coverage in the future.

The Czechoslovak broadcast stated that East Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia will be linked to the television network of the USSR by 1962. This is possible since there are current plans for expanding microwave radio relay and coaxial cable facilities required to transmit video information in the countries involved.

No plans have been revealed to connect the television network of the USSR with Finland, or the United Arab Republic. Television programs emanating from the Soviet transmitter in Tallin can be received in Helsinki. These programs could be retransmitted in Finland. Soviet plans do provide for a microwave radio relay network that could connect with a similar network in Communist China. The completion dates for these networks, however, have not been given. 4/ It is unlikely, therefore, that television network facilities between the USSR and China will be available for several years.

The establishment of that portion of the planned television network between the European Satellites and the USSR by 1962 will result in a greatly expanded telecommunications capability. The microwave radio relay and coaxial cable facilities required for a television network may be used to provide 240 or more telephone circuits. The

* The title is not definite and may be changed to OIR-Vision.

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